

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (New) A method for warning a driver of a motor vehicle, comprising:

detecting, by an object detector, at least one preceding vehicle, and a distance and relative velocity with respect to the motor vehicle;

supplying the distance and relative velocity to an evaluation device;

ascertaining, by the evaluation device, whether, assuming that the preceding vehicle performed a deceleration, a collision with the preceding vehicle would be avoidable as a function of a reaction time of the driver and a maximum possible deceleration of the motor vehicle; and

activating a warning device in an event that the collision would be unavoidable.

14. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the reaction time of the driver is determined by averaging reaction times from previous driving situations in which a driver reaction was required.

15. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the reaction time of the driver is a predetermined value.

16. (New) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the driver of the vehicle specifies the reaction time using a control element.

17. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues at least one of an acoustic and visual signal.

18. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning using a reversible belt tensioner, the reversible belt tensioner being pretensioned once or several times.

19. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning device by a brief triggering of a deceleration device.

20. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning at least one of: i) by a haptic accelerator pedal, and ii) in the form of a vibration of a steering wheel.

21. (New) A device for warning a driver of a motor vehicle, comprising:

an object detector which detects a preceding vehicle and a distance and relative velocity with respect to the motor vehicle;

an evaluation device which receives the distance and the relative velocity, the evaluation device configured to ascertain whether, assuming that the preceding vehicle performed a deceleration, a collision with the preceding vehicle would be avoidable as a function of a reaction time of the driver and of a maximum possible deceleration of the motor vehicle; and

a driver warning device configured to issue a driver warning in an event that a collision is unavoidable.

22. (New) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the driver warning device is at least one of a visual and acoustic signaling device.

23. (New) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the driver warning device is a reversible belt tensioner.

24. (New) The device as recited in one of claim 21, wherein a vehicle deceleration device is used as the driver warning device.